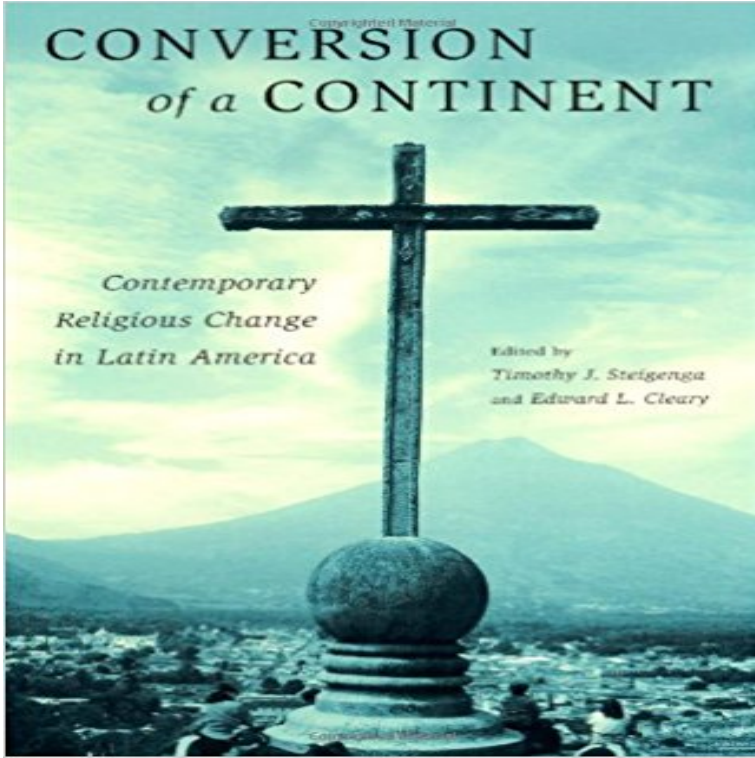


Conversion of a Continent: Contemporary Religious Change in Latin America



A massive religious transformation has unfolded over the past forty years in Latin America and the Caribbean. In a region where the Catholic Church could once claim a near monopoly of adherents, religious pluralism has fundamentally altered the social and religious landscape. *Conversion of a Continent* brings together twelve original essays that document and explore competing explanations for how and why conversion has occurred. Contributors draw on various insights from social movement theory to religious studies to help outline its impact on national attitudes and activities, gender relations, identity politics, and reverse waves of missions from Latin America aimed at the American immigrant community. Unlike other studies on religious conversion, this volume pays close attention to who converts, under what circumstances, the meaning of conversion to the individual, and how the change affects converts' beliefs and actions. The thematic focus makes this volume important to students and scholars in both religious studies and Latin American studies.

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Conversion of a Continent brings together twelve original essays that document and explore competing religious transformations in Latin America and the Caribbean. In a region where the Catholic Church could once dominate, the religious scene is a blooming confusion of churches, chapels, street preachers, and new religious movements. Transforming Religious Identities in Latin America (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2007), edited by Timothy J. Steigenga and Edward L. Cleary, documents these changes and their implications for the future of Christianity in Latin America. The book is available in paperback and is a valuable resource for students and scholars in both religious studies and Latin American studies.

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